



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CAREER ROADMAP

*There are many ways into the behavioral health field.
Lived experience or education can start you on your way!*

★ LIVED EXPERIENCE

Personal experience with mental health or substance use, either directly or through a loved one, that is recognized as a valuable form of expertise.



1 HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA/GED/ CERTIFIED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TECHNICIAN (BHT) CREDENTIAL

A minimum education requirement for many entry-level roles in the behavioral health field. The CBHT credential requires additional training for working directly with people receiving services.



2 UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE

A bachelor's degree, typically completed in 4 years, provides foundational knowledge in a specific field of study.



3 GRADUATE DEGREE

A master's degree, typically completed in 2 years, provides more advanced knowledge in a field of study.



4 POST-GRADUATE DEGREE

A doctoral or other post-graduate degree provides the highest level of education in a field.



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How to use this roadmap



Use this guide to explore behavioral health career pathways. It includes career options you can explore after high school, certificate and degree programs, and careers that value lived experience. You can start anywhere and browse in any order!





★ LIVED EXPERIENCE



CAREERS

Youth advocate peer specialist
Peer specialist
Parent/family advocate

YOUTH ADVOCATE PEER SPECIALIST

A young person with personal experience in mental health or substance use challenges who has the training to support young people facing similar struggles, guiding them through recovery and helping them take control of their own lives.



PEER SPECIALIST

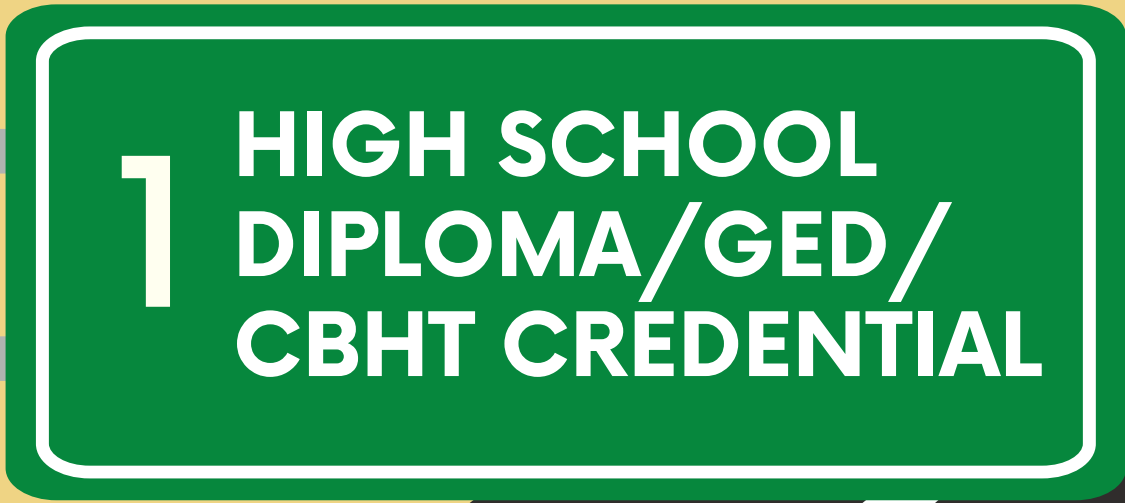
A trained professional who uses their personal experience with mental health and substance use challenges to support and guide others facing similar struggles.



PARENT/FAMILY ADVOCATE

Someone who is trained to use their personal experience with having a child or family member with mental health and substance use challenges to support and guide other parents and families facing similar struggles.





1 HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA/GED/ CBHT CREDENTIAL

CAREERS

Behavioral health technician
Psychiatric aide
Crisis services specialist
Community health worker



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TECH /PSYCHIATRIC AIDE



Behavioral health technicians and psychiatric aides help people dealing with mental health or substance use issues in hospitals, clinics, rehab centers, or mental health facilities. They assist with daily activities, treatment plans, track progress, and provide support.

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

A community mental health worker helps people access mental health services, offers support, and promotes recovery within the community.



CERTIFICATIONS

Offered by Florida Certification Board (FCB)

Certified BHT Credential

Certified Community Health Worker

Certified Recovery Peer Specialist



All FCB certifications require a high school diploma or General Equivalence Degree (GED), training, work experience, on-the-job supervision, letters of recommendation, and a certification exam.



2 UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE

BACHELOR'S LEVEL



CERTIFICATES

- Applied Mental Health Services
- Addiction Studies
- Counseling in School Settings
- Crisis & Trauma Counseling
- Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Peer Support Specialist (online, towards Certified Recovery Peer Specialist)
- Child Welfare
- Youth Development
- Registered Behavior Technician (online towards Board Certified Behavior Analyst)
- Mental Health Technician (online, towards BHT certificate)
- Healthy Aging
- Social Justice



CAREERS

- Behavioral health technician
- Child welfare case worker
- Case manager or care coordinator
- Vocational rehabilitation counselor
- Psychiatric technician
- Social worker
- Community outreach worker
- Mental health navigator
- Crisis line worker
- Intake coordinator
- Research assistant
- Group facilitator
- Substance abuse counselor
- Prevention specialist



DEGREE OPTIONS

Behavioral & Mental Health
Psychology
Neuroscience & Behavior
Social Work
Community Psychology
Human Services

SCHOOLS

[Florida Atlantic University](#)
[Lynn University](#)⁺
[Nova Southeastern University](#)[^]
[Palm Beach Atlantic University](#)⁺
[Palm Beach State College](#)⁺
[South University](#)⁺
[Keiser University](#)⁺

⁺ALSO ONLINE [^]ONLINE ONLY



3 GRADUATE DEGREE

MASTER'S LEVEL

DEGREE OPTIONS

- Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling
- Mental Health Counseling
- School Counseling
- Psychology
- Forensic Psychology
- Educational Psychology
- Developmental Disabilities

- General Psychology
- Social Work
- Industrial & Organizational Psychology
- Christian Studies + Clinical Mental
- Health Counseling
- Master of Divinity + Clinical Mental Health Counseling



CERTIFICATES

Child Welfare
Healthy Aging
Social Justice

SCHOOLS

[Florida Atlantic University](#)

[Lynn University](#)⁺

[Nova Southeastern University](#)[^]

[Palm Beach Atlantic University](#)

[South University](#)

[Keiser University](#)⁺



CAREERS

Clinician/therapist
Program administrator
Data and evaluation analyst
School behavioral health professional
Psychologist
College professor
Researcher
Clinical case manager



⁺ALSO ONLINE [^]ONLINE ONLY



4 POST-GRADUATE DEGREE

DOCTORAL LEVEL

After completing an undergraduate degree, there are additional ways to specialize in the behavioral and mental health fields. These may include advanced degrees, certifications, and career roles that build on your education and experience.



DEGREE OPTIONS

Counselor Education
Experimental Psychology
Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
Social Work
Medicine

CERTIFICATES

Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner



SCHOOLS

[Florida Atlantic University](#)

CAREERS

Psychologist
Professor
Field researcher/research scientist
Psychiatrist
Public policy advisor or consultant



What to do next!

There are many pathways to a career in the behavioral and mental health fields. Start by choosing one or two pathways that interest you. Compare your options and think about what stands out. Find a path that fits your goals, interests, and strengths. Explore what feels right for you.



Note: The information contained within this document is subject to change. Please refer to each school's website for the most up-to-date information.

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